



**ASSOCIATION of
GOVERNMENTS**

Main Office

818 West Seventh Street

12th Floor

Los Angeles, California

90017-3435

t (213) 236-1800

f (213) 236-1825

www.scag.ca.gov

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MEETING OF THE

PLANS & PROGRAMS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, December 7, 2010
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**SCAG Offices
818 West 7th Street, 12th Floor
Policy Committee Room B
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 236-1800**

Videoconferencing is available with a 72-hour advance notice by contacting Margaret Lin at lin@scag.ca.gov or 213-236-1866.

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If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Margaret Lin at 213-236-1866 or lin@scag.ca.gov

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December 2010

Charlie Larwood, Chair

Kevin Viera, Vice-Chair

Member

Lori Abrishami
Jacob I. Alvarez
Mark Baza
Marlon Boarnet
Kerry Cartwright
Diana Chang
David Cordero
Alan De Salvio

Steve DeGeorge

Matt Dessert
Maurice Eaton
Valerie Edwards
Maureen El Harake
Kim Fuentes
Carol A. Gomez
Mary Heim
Mark Herwick
Michael Hollis

Melissa Joshi
Marianne Kim
Richard Kite
Charlie Larwood
Valarie McFall
Genie McGaugh
Shirley Medina

Miles Mitchell
Nancy Pfeffer
Mark Roberts
Terry Roberts
Ty Schuiling
Marc Seferian
Eric Shen
Dave Simpson
Bill Trimble
Kim Uhlich

Kevin Viera
Lisa Webber
Fred Zohrehvand

Representing

Los Angeles County Metro
Coachella Valley AG
Imperial County Transportation Commission
UCI Dept. of Planning, Policy, and Design
Port of Los Angeles
Westside Cities COG
SCAG Region Special Districts
Antelope Valley AQMD
Mojave Desert AQMD
Ventura County Transportation
Commission/Ventura COG
Imperial County APCD
Caltrans District 11
Los Angeles Unified School District
Caltrans District 12
South Bay Cities COG
South Coast AQMD
California Department of Finance
County of Los Angeles
Metropolitan Water District of Southern
California
Caltrans District 7
American Automobile Association
North LA County – North
Orange County Transportation Authority
Transportation Corridor Agencies
Ventura County APCD
Riverside County Transportation
Commission
City of Los Angeles
Gateway Cities COG
Caltrans District 8
Air Resources Board
San Bernardino Associated Governments
Las Virgenes/Malibu COG
Port of Long Beach
Orange County COG
San Gabriel Valley COG
SCAG Region Local Agency Formation
Commissions
Western Riverside COG
North LA County – South
Arroyo Verdugo

PLANS & PROGRAMS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE DECEMBER 7, 2010

TIME PG#

1.0 **CALL TO ORDER**

(Charlie Larwood, OCTA and P&P TAC Chair)

2.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** – Members of the public desiring to speak on items on the agenda, or items not on the agenda, but within the purview of the Plans & Programs Technical Advisory Committee, must fill out and present a speaker's card to the assistant prior to speaking. Comments will be limited to three minutes. The chair may limit the total time for all comments to twenty minutes.

3.0 **REVIEW and PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

4.0 **CONSENT CALENDAR**

4.1 **Approval Item**

4.1.1 Minutes of November 9, 2010 P&P TAC Meeting

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5.0 **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5.1 Pacific Electric Right-of-Way (PE ROW)
Alternatives Analysis
(Philip Law, SCAG Staff)

Presentation: 10 min
Discussion: 10 min

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Staff will provide an overview of the Alternatives Analysis transit planning study that SCAG is conducting, in coordination with Metro and OCTA, to evaluate potential transportation investments on the PE ROW / West Santa Ana Branch corridor.

5.2 Preliminary Draft Revenue Forecast for 2012 RTP
(Annie Nam, SCAG Staff)

Presentation: 10 min
Discussion: 10 min

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SCAG Staff will provide an update on the development of the Revenue Forecast for the 2012 RTP.

6.0 **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

6.1 Winter Outlook

* Attachment under separate cover

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS

PLANS & PROGRAMS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE DECEMBER 7, 2010

TIME PG#

January 2011

- Update on City Profiles (Ping Chang)

February 2011

- Baseline Transportation System Performance Condition (Tarek Hatata and Naresh Amatya)
- Transit Performance Assessment (Tarek Hatata and Naresh Amatya)
- Corridor System Management Plans (CSMP) & Recommendations (Philip Law and Tarek Hatata)

7.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting of the P&P TAC will be Wednesday, January 12, 2011.

P&PTAC 1

Meeting of the
Plans & Programs Technical Advisory Committee (P&P TAC)
of the
Southern California Association of Governments

November 9, 2010

Minutes

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AND/OR DISCUSSIONS BY THE PLANS & PROGRAMS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE. AUDIO OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES OFFICE.

The Plans & Programs Technical Advisory Committee held its November 9, 2010 meeting at SCAG's downtown Los Angeles Office.

Members Present

Terry Roberts	Air Resources Board
Earl Withycombe	Air Resources Board - Alternate
Melissa Joshi	Caltrans District 7
Miles Mitchell	City of Los Angeles
Naomi Guth	City of Los Angeles - Alternate
Nancy Pfeffer	Gateway Cities COG
Mark Baza	Imperial County Transportation Commission
Lori Abrishami	Los Angeles County Metro
Sarah Jepson	Los Angeles County Metro - Alternate
Michael Hollis	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Richard Kite	North LA County - North
Mike Behen	North LA County - North - Alternate
Dave Peterson	North LA County - South - Alternate
Deborah Diep	OCCOG
Gregory Nord	OCTA
Dave Simpson	Orange County COG
Charlie Larwood	Orange County Transportation Authority
Kerry Cartwright	Port of Los Angeles
Ty Schuiling	San Bernardino Associated Governments
Steve Smith	San Bernardino Associated Governments
Bill Trimble	San Gabriel Valley COG
Kim Uhlich	SCAG Region Local Agency Formations Commissions
Walter Siembab	South Bay Cities COG - Alternate
Carol A. Gomez	South Coast AQMD
Valarie McFall	Transportation Corridor Agencies
Genie McGaugh	Ventura County APCD

Plans & Programs Technical Advisory Committee (P&P TAC) Minutes

October 13, 2010

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Steve De George	Ventura County Transportation Commission/Ventura COG
Kevin Viera	Western Riverside COG

Members Excused

Eric Shen	Port of Long Beach
Marlon Boarnet	UCI Department of Planning, Policy and Design

Members Not Present

Marianne Kim	American Automobile Association
Stephen Finnegan	American Automobile Association - Alternate
Alan De Salvio	Antelope Valley AQMD/Mojave Desert AQMD
Fred Zohrehvand	Arroyo Verdugo
Maurice Eaton	Caltrans District 11
Beth Landrum	Caltrans District 11 - Alternate
Maureen El Harake	Caltrans District 12
Everett Evans	Caltrans District 12 - Alternate
Dianna Watson	Caltrans District 7 - Alternate
Fernando Castro	Caltrans District 7 - Alternate
Mark Roberts	Caltrans District 8
James Camarillo	Caltrans District 8 - Alternate
Aurora Wilson	Coachella Valley AG - Alternate
Mark Herwick	County of Los Angeles
Connie Chung	County of Los Angeles - Alternate
Aimee Kratovil	Federal Highway Administration - Alternate
Karen Heit	Gateway Cities COG - Alternate
Matt Dessert	Imperial County APCD
Monica N. Soucier	Imperial County APCD - Alternate
Rosa Lopez-Solis	Imperial County Transportation Commission - Alternate
Marc Seferian	Las Virgenes/Malibu COG
Valerie Edwards	Los Angeles Unified School District
Mary E. Pritchard	Los Angeles Unified School District - Alternate
Lisa Webber	North LA County - South
Jolene Hayes	Port of Long Beach - Alternate
Shirley Medina	Riverside County Transportation Commission
Grace Alvarez	Riverside County Transportation Commission - Alternate
Larry Stevens	San Gabriel Valley COG - Alternate
Kim Uhlich	SCAG Region Local Agency Formation Commissions
David Cordero	SCAG Regional Special Districts
Kim Fuentes	South Bay Cities COG

Kathryn Higgins	South Coast AQMD - Alternate
Sam Elters	Transportation Corridor Agencies - Alternate
Alan Ballard	Ventura County APCD - Alternate
Diana Chang	Westside Cities COG
Martha Eros	Westside Cities COG - Alternate
Danielle Coats	WRCOG

1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Charlie Larwood, OCTA & P&P TAC Chair.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments were made.

3.0 REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments regarding the review and prioritization of the agenda items.

4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

4.1 Approval Item

4.1.1 Minutes of October 13, 2010 P&P TAC Meeting

The minutes of October 13, 2010 were approved with no revisions.

5.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 ARB Final Targets

Jacob Lieb, SCAG staff, presented an update on the ARB final targets actions and stipulations. Mr. Lieb explained that discussions between ARB and SCAG have so far been preliminary and at the staff level. Both agencies acknowledged the need for higher level discussions between the agency leaders, particularly between SCAG's Executive Director Hasan Ikhrata and Air Resources Board Chairwoman Mary Nichols.

Terry Roberts, Air Resources Board, asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the final resolution issued by ARB on September 23, 2010. She restated that the ARB approved SCAG's recommendations of a 13% reduction by 2035 with the condition that meetings take place between ARB and SCAG. These are to take place before the ARB's meeting on February 11, 2011.

Nancy Pfeffer, Gateway Cities COG, asked if the scope of discussions between ARB and SCAG look at targeting the sub-regional level or only regional planning. It was explained that discussions targeted only regional planning.

Walter Siembab, South Bay Cities COG, asked if there was any consideration given to the 2005-to-2010 plans. Mr. Lieb explained that plans during this time were not considered in current planning.

5.2 **Transportation Modeling Workshop**

Guoxiong Huang, SCAG staff, presented the current transportation modeling efforts and methodologies. Mr. Huang explained that the models are validated based on traffic flow data and are a requirement of federal regulations and state law. One of the objectives of developing a base year model for 2012 RTP is to measure the benefits of different strategies relating to SB 375 compliance. The model and its methods will undergo peer review in Spring 2011 by experts from federal agencies and academics to verify its integrity, sensitivity and accuracy. The final report will become available in June 2011 following peer review. It was explained that to achieve this objective SCAG has created a tiered zone system for modeling, in collaboration with local governments. SCAG models were used for SCS emission target setting exercises which involve quantitative analysis of seven component strategies: 1) land use growth, 2) highways and arterials, 3) transit, 4) travel demand management, 5) non-motorized transportation system, 6) transportation system management, and 7) pricing. On the tiered zone system, Mr. Huang explained that tier 1 zones are approximately the size of a census tract. There are 4,109 Tier 1 zones. Tier 2 zones further disaggregate tier 1 zones into 11,267 transportation analysis zones. Other elements of the model development program included the creation of a regional Highway Network Inventory with attributes such as speed limits, number of lanes, types of intersection controls, and direction of traffic flow to help create a base year network; screenline

traffic counts with 24 hour traffic flow information at 5-minute intervals; transit level of service data collection; arterial speed studies; and modeling tools development such as Sustainability Tools, pricing model, heavy duty truck model, land use model, and activity-based model. This trip-based model will be used for the upcoming 2012 RTP and related programs modeling analysis.

John Stesney, Los Angeles County Metro, asked at which level of detail the models are validated. Mr. Huang indicated that the traffic counts are collected for 34 different screenline locations. Root Mean Square Errors between model results and counts will be calculated for each facility type and by volume groups. Further, the correlation coefficient will be measured to verify the accuracy of the model - a correlation coefficient of 1 indicates perfect match. Mr. Huang also stated that no model is perfect. With 11,000+ zones, averaging around 1,800 people per zone, deviations exist. SCAG will be doing the best to limit that deviation.

Melisa Joshi, Caltrans District 7, asked about coordination efforts with Caltrans modeling units and traffic staff. Mr. Huang explained that there is good coordination with Caltrans and at times, Caltrans also provides modeling assistance.

Ty Schuiling, SANBAG, noted that although the model is very detailed and its conclusions are verified, there is an inherent limitation. For example, the arterials speed flow diagram indicates data collection represents speed vs. flow of traffic. When traffic speeds drop and flow becomes maximized, flow declines. However, current modeling suggests traffic flows will continue and seems to suggest that more vehicles can occupy the roadways when, in fact, that is not possible. In other words, the current modeling approach is best used for demand rather than flow estimates when a roadway becomes congested. It was suggested by Mr. Schuiling that the only way to overcome this limitation is with simulation modeling. In general, this does not represent a significant problem but does represent a weakness in modeling.

Nancy Pfeffer, Gateway Cities COG, asked for further discussion regarding land use issues and green house gases. Mr. Huang explained modeling for compliance requirements regarding SB 375 involves mixed-use land zoning, housing types, walkability, transit accessibility, and mixed density. This is used to gauge how the vehicle trips will be enacted. Therefore, we explore the green house gas production involved in each trip.

Terry Roberts, Air Resources Board, asked about the zones used in modeling. Mr. Huang explained zones are the approximate size of a census block group and can differ based on location. The zones in urban areas are smaller and they become larger in the less dense outlying areas.

Walter Siembab, South Bay Cities COG, asked if SCAG could provide a “Models for Dummies” course. Mr. Huang explained that such a course could be looked into. Mr. Huang also added that there are three goals for modeling. The first is to satisfy conformity requirements. The second is to have a credible tool to evaluate different strategies for the RTP and related programs. The third is to support local governments for their various projects.

5.3 **Update on Financial Plan**

Annie Nam, SCAG Staff, presented an update on the financial forecasting efforts. Ms. Nam indicated that SCAG staff has been meeting with each county transportation commission. The goal is to provide a “fiscally constrained” financial plan which means that there needs to be funds available for the projects proposed. Additionally, data has been collected from state and federal sources. Efforts have uncovered a strain on funding, so efforts are looking at congestion pricing and other actions.

Chris Williges, System Metrics Group, SCAG Consultant, provided additional information on funding forecasts. Mr. Williges indicated that the greatest issue affecting funding in the region is the recession. Mr. Williges presented a graph indicating that sales tax revenue trends are below the historical path due to the current recession. It was also noted that highway construction costs are decreasing. However, despite these current factors, revenue levels may change in the future depending on the strength of the economy and decrease of the recession. One issue on the horizon affecting revenue is vehicle fuel efficiency. As vehicle fuel efficiency increases, there will be a corresponding decrease in gas tax as a result of fewer gallons of gasoline purchased. Mr. Williges next presented a graph indicating future projected retail sales. Since RTP spending is 35% funded by sales tax, it was felt useful in framing revenue projections. Mr. Williges also examined inflation and deflation possibilities. Currently inflation is indicated as 1.7%; however, historically, inflation rates tend to average 3.5%.

Warren Whiteaker, SCAG Staff, spoke about current data collecting efforts. These are to collect information broadly to achieve a unified RTP financial forecast.

Ty Schuiling stated the gas tax swap engineered early in 2010 means the previous 6% state sales tax on gas funding previously available under Prop 42 is no longer available. Funding now relies on the gasoline excise tax. However, the Board of Equalization can adjust this funding source each March 1st so that revenue can be kept consistent with Prop 42 levels. Mr. Schuiling stated that in order to maintain a level of system performance and maintenance, it is important to consider the revenue source. To the extent that revenue generation has a nexus with travel demand, the system is meeting revenue expectations. Mr. Schuiling quoted a report suggesting that when revenue is derived from congestion pricing, VMT fees, tolls and gasoline tax, the system can be maintained effectively. However, if revenue sources come from general obligation bond and sales tax, this imposes a higher-than-necessary revenue requirement. He provided an example that suggested that the proper level of spending in this area should be approximately \$225 billion yearly; however, when funded by taxes which do not affect travel demand, that figure grows to \$340 billion in needed revenue. Mr. Schuiling stated that the Committee has a responsibility to make this cost difference understood to the public and to elected officials.

Nancy Pfeffer, Gateway Cities COG, added that she thought that the congestion pricing presentation by Annie Nam at the previous Regional Council meeting was useful. Ms. Pfeffer asked if such a presentation can be made to sub regional boards. Ms. Nam indicated that that could be done. Ms. Nam stated that a great deal of education and outreach needs to be performed on this issue. Ms. Nam said that she envisioned a series of workshops for elected officials.

Walter Siembab, South Bay Cities COG, asked if when looking at the economic recovery projections if any scenarios examined a flat-line, gradual decline, or freefall economic scenario. Mr. Siembab stated that these different scenarios would be useful since there is little political will to raise taxes in a bad economy.

6 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

The next meeting of the Plans & Programs Technical Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.